Heroine Voice
ch. 6
Raws and scans
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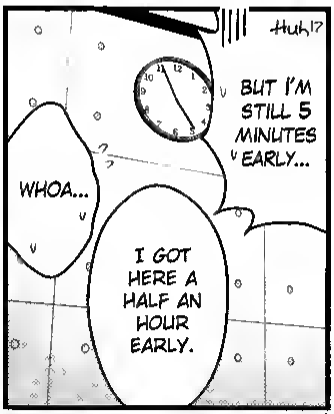
ヒロインボイス

HEROINE VOICE

CH. 6: TAPED AUDITION

NORIO TSUKUDANI

◘ A CRANKY SUZU UNINTENTIONALLY TAKES IT OUT ON OTOME.



HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
チラチラ
Here's the script! ♪
HOW'D YOU GO ABOUT PRACTICING FOR THIS?
B-BY THE WAY...
Ah hem!
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU!
ぱぁっ
Mumble
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD ASK, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...
A-AS SOMEONE WHO'S DONE THIS BEFORE...
Mumble
SINCE YOU'RE A BEGINNER AT THIS,
YOU MIGHT BE DOING SOMETHING WRONG,
IF I USE THAT AS A REFERENCE, THEN EVEN I...
OTOME'S ACTING ABILITY ISN'T RUN OF THE MILL,
SO SHE SHOULD BE DOING SOME KIND OF SPECIAL PRACTICE.
WELL, FIRST OF ALL...

パアアア
I BECOME ONE WITH THE CHARACTER!
BECOME ONE!?
ヒロインボイス
I READ THE SCRIPT, DOCUMENTS, AND THE ORIGINAL MANGA,
AND ONCE I FEEL THAT THE CHARACTER IS TOTALLY IN MY HEAD...
HUH...? THAT'S PRETTY NORMAL...
?
AND THEN WHAT I DO IS
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT. THAT'S ENOUGH.
THAT DIDN'T HELP ME OUT AT ALL...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT...
THE CHARACTER SPEAKS TO ME,
SAYING STUFF LIKE, "THIS IS WHAT I WAS THINKING AT THIS MOMENT"!

ガチャッ
ZENI-MOTO-SAN...!
SORRY FOR THE HOLD UP!
ガタッ
GOOD MORNING!
Brush Brush
SO YOU CAME WITH UKYOU-SAN!!
...AND WHO'S THAT BEHIND YOU...?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU TWO HAVE MET, RIGHT?

THAT'S NOT TRUE.
You have a core set of fans.
ZENIMOTO-KUN'S PRETTY POPULAR, SO HE'S LEFT ME IN THE DUST...
Eh heh heh
THIS IS AOI CHIGASAKI-SAN WHO'S BEEN WORKING AT KUSUNOKI PRO FOR ABOUT AS LONG AS ZENIMOTO-KUN.
Wow!
SHE'S SO CUTE...!
ぱっ
WA!
Grab
AOI-SENPAI!!
IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU!!
(Blush)
Y-YEAH, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO...

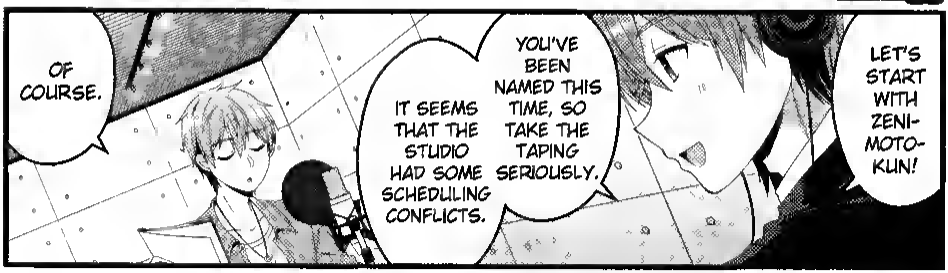
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!!
Excited
THEN LET'S JUMP RIGHT INTO THE RECORD-INGS!
AND I CAN'T HOLD BACK MY EXCITE-MENT...!
WHEN I STAND IN FRONT OF A MIC, THERE'S SO MUCH TENSION IN THE AIR,
Huge mic
ARE WE GONNA DO IT IN FRONT OF THAT HUGE MIC LIKE AT AN ANIME RECORDING SESSION?
I WONDER HOW A TAPED AUDITION GOES.
...HUH?
Surprised
I WANT TO DO A RECORDING SESSION IN THAT PLACE AGAI...

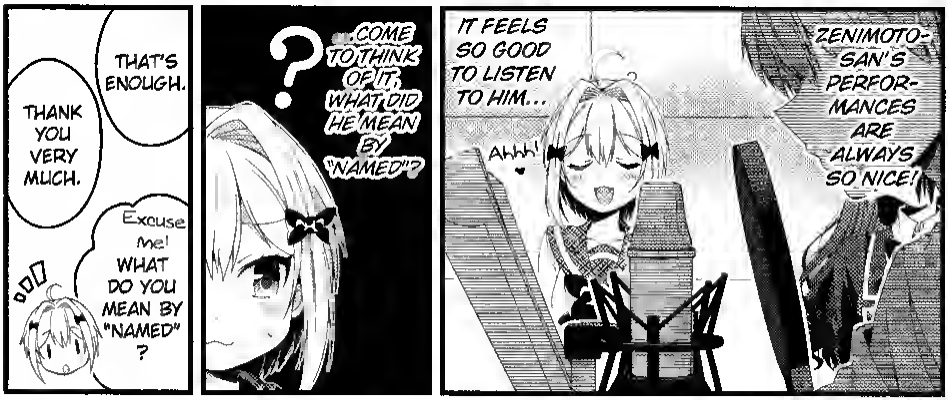
WE'RE NOT GONNA DO IT IN THE SAME PLACE?
WE DON'T HAVE THE BUDGET TO RENT A STUDIO...
BUT IT JUST LOOKS SMALLER WITH A DESKTOP STAND.
THIS IS ACTUALLY THE SAME THING...
HUGE MICS? YOU MEAN THE CONDENSER MICS?
Um,
WHERE ARE THE USUAL HUGE MICS...?

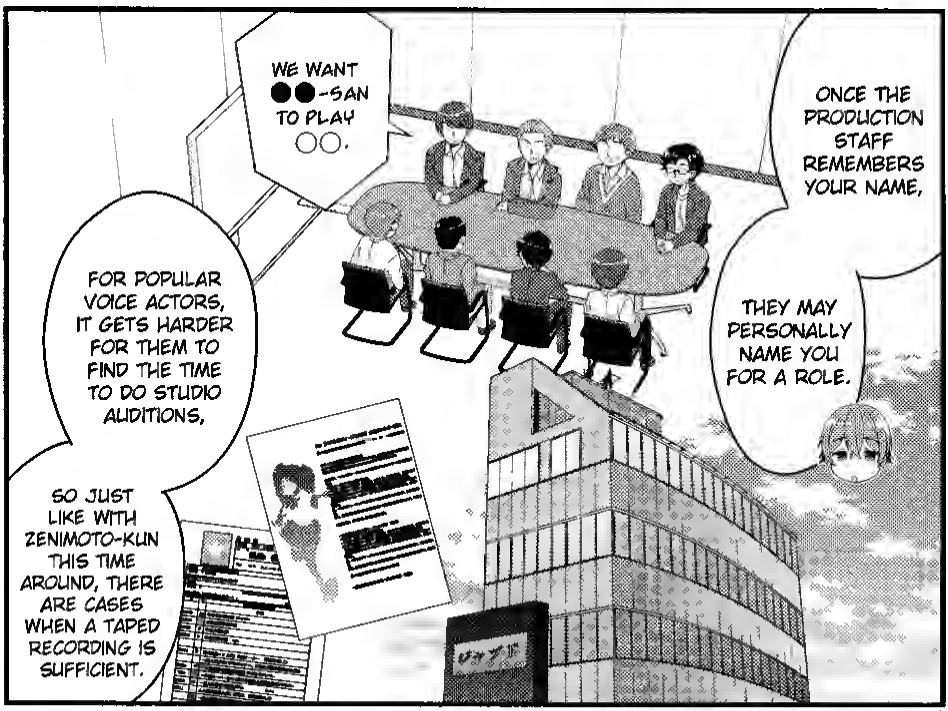
I SUPPOSE THIS EQUIPMENT IS DISTINCTIVE OF SMALLER AGENCIES...
BUT KUSUNOKI PRO DOESN'T HAVE A STUDIO, AND I'LL BE THE DIRECTOR.
LARGE AGENCIES HAVE IN-HOUSE STUDIOS
AND THEIR OWN DIRECTORS,
REALLY...
SINCE WE'RE DOING THIS, I WOULD HAVE RATHER DONE IT IN A PROPER STUDIO...

HUH?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER...

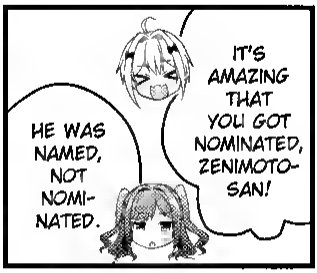
THE SKILLFUL WILL GET CHOSEN...
RIGHT?
WHETHER YOU RECORD AT A STUDIO OR HERE,
!!
IT'S ALL UP TO YOUR TALENT IN THE END, SO THAT DOESN'T MATTER...
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE TALENT, YOU'LL GET THE ROLE!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE WE DO IT.
THIS IS AN AUDITION!
HE'S RIGHT ...
TALENT...
WHA!? WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN !?
Twitch
YEAH!! I'M SORRY!!


LET'S START WITH ZENIMOTO-KUN!
YOU'VE BEEN NAMED THIS TIME, SO TAKE THE TAPING SERIOUSLY.
IT SEEMS THAT THE STUDIO HAD SOME SCHEDULING CONFLICTS.
OF COURSE.


ZENIMOTO-SAN'S PERFORMANCES ARE ALWAYS SO NICE!
IT FEELS SO GOOD TO LISTEN TO HIM...
Ahhh
...COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "NAMED"?
THAT'S ENOUGH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Excuse me! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "NAMED"?


ONCE THE PRODUCTION STAFF REMEMBERS YOUR NAME,
THEY MAY PERSONALLY NAME YOU FOR A ROLE.
WE WANT ●●-SAN TO PLAY ○○.
FOR POPULAR VOICE ACTORS, IT GETS HARDER FOR THEM TO FIND THE TIME TO DO STUDIO AUDITIONS,
SO JUST LIKE WITH ZENIMOTO-KUN THIS TIME AROUND, THERE ARE CASES WHEN A TAPED RECORDING IS SUFFICIENT.

HE'S ONLY BEEN IN SHOWBIZ FOR 3 YEARS AND HE'S YOUNG,
BUT HE'S DEDICATED AND DILIGENT, SO HE'S EVEN POPULAR WITH THE STAFF.
PLUS, HE'S ALREADY LANDED ROLES FOR MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE SUMMER AND FALL SEASONS,
SO I'M SURE GETTING NAMED THIS TIME MEANS...!


IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU GOT NOMINATED, ZENIMOTO-SAN!
HE WAS NAMED, NOT NOMI-NATED.

HE'S KUSUNDKI PRD'S ACE, AFTER ALL!
I'VE ASKED YOU TO STOP SAYING THAT...

IT'S JUST THAT GETTING NAMED FOR AN AUDITION BY ITSELF IS AN AMAZING THING!
ZENI-MOTO-KUN IS JUST BEING MODEST!

JUST BECAUSE I WAS NAMED DOESN'T MEAN I'M GONNA GET THE ROLE,
SO PLEASE DON'T TEACH THE OTHERS ANYTHING WEIRD.
How embar-rassing...
Ah
SORRY...

WOW!
HOW ANNOY-ING...

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T REALIZE... I forgot
HUH!? AH...OH, YEAH!
I HAVE A VIDEO GAME RECORDING SESSION AFTER THIS, SO IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD LET ME...
Nervous
U-UM...
CAN I GO NEXT...?

Asuka Saitou
WAS A BOYISH CHARACTER.
I'M PRETTY SURE ASUKA SAITOU...
THEN CHIGASAKI-SAN, TRY PLAYING ASUKA SAITOU.
OKAY.

BUT...
IS HER VOICE TOO DEEP TO PLAY ASUKA SAITOU...?

HMM...

CHIGA-SAKI-SAN MAY LOOK CUTE,
BUT DOES SHE DO BOYISH CHARACTERS BECAUSE OF HER DEEP VOICE?

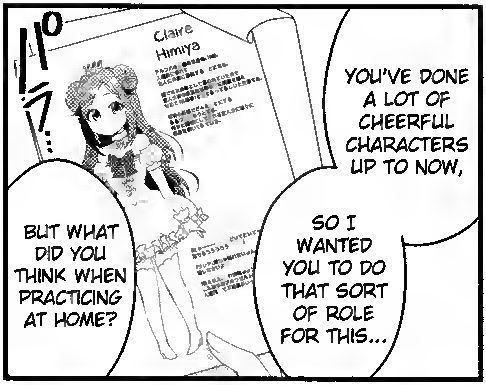
I WANTED YOU TO GIVE THIS ONE A SHOT, SO LET'S TRY SENDING THIS IN.
PLEASE DO.
AHA... IS MY VOICE TOO DEEP?
IF I MAKE IT ANY HIGHER, IT'LL SOUND FORCED...
ALTHOUGH SHE'S A BOYISH CHARACTER,
SHE'S STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, SO THIS MIGHT BE STRETCHING IT.

?
?
YOUR VOICE IS PRETTY DEEP COMPARED TO HOW YOU LOOK, CHIGASAKI-SAN!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT!
ぽあっ

EH?
HUH?
What's with this mood..?

I'M A GUY...
WELL, OF COURSE IT'S DEEP...
...
YOU'RE A GUY!?
Nod Nod
I SEE! SO THAT'S WHY!
HUH!? REALLY!?
BUT YOU TOTALLY LOOK LIKE A GIRL...!
What the!?
EVERYONE REACTS THAT WAY AT FIRST...
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON.
Well then, I HAVE TO BE GOING NOW. EXCUSE ME...
YOU'RE UP NEXT, YAMADA-SAN.
What's going on!?
HUH!? WHAT!?

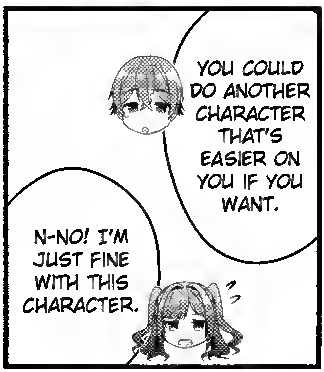
HUH? THAT'S IT?
...OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
Ah!
UM... IS THAT THE END OF IT?
YEAH! THIS IS PLENTY!
THIS IS YAMADA-SAN'S FIRST TAPED AUDITION...
Boo
I want to say more
Gulp...
SO I WAS UNSURE ABOUT HOW SHE'D HANDLE IT...
BUT THIS... MIGHT JUST WORK...!!
OKAY...
IT ENDED SO QUICKLY...
I GUESS TAPED RECORDINGS ARE PRETTY PLAIN...
IF SHE GOES TO THE STUDIO
AND PULLS OFF THIS PERFORMANCE THERE, THEN POSSIBLY...!


Claire Himiya
YOU'VE DONE A LOT OF CHEERFUL CHARACTERS UP TO NOW,
SO I WANTED YOU TO DO THAT SORT OF ROLE FOR THIS...
BUT WHAT DID YOU THINK WHEN PRACTICING AT HOME?

ALL RIGHT!! YOU'RE UP, AYASE-SAN!
OKAY...!

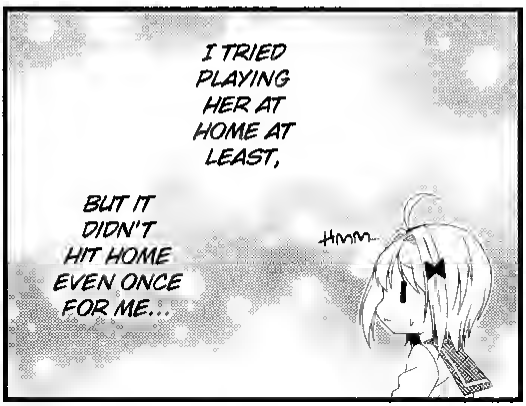
SO I JUST READ THE LINES ALOUD AT HOME...
IN THE END, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD PRACTICE FOR THIS,
AND I COULDN'T FIND THE TIME TO READ EVEN ONE CHAPTER OF THE ORIGINAL MANGA...
UH... UMM...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

UP UNTIL NOW, I JUST PERFORMED THE ROLES
THAT MY AGENCY GAVE ME.
SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT CHARACTERS WOULD FIT MY VOICE...


YOU COULD DO ANOTHER CHARACTER THAT'S EASIER ON YOU IF YOU WANT.
N-NO! I'M JUST FINE WITH THIS CHARACTER.

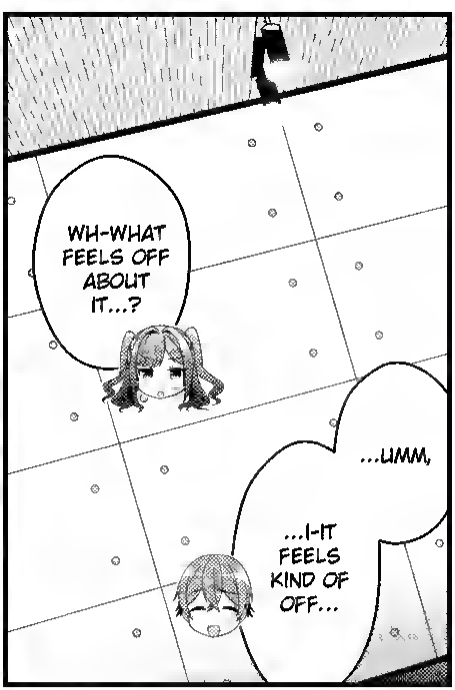
THERE WERE SHOUTING AND CRYING SCENES EVEN IN THE AUDITION SCRIPT, SO IT FELT LIKE A DIFFICULT ROLE TO DO.
ISN'T SUZU-CHAN'S CHARACTER CLAIRE HIMIYA THE MAIN HEROINE?

……
WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK...?


I TRIED PLAYING HER AT HOME AT LEAST,
BUT IT DIDN'T HIT HOME EVEN ONCE FOR ME...
Hmm

イラ!
UMM... I GUESS THE CHARACTER DOESN'T SUIT YOU...
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...

イラ!
イラ...
イラ!
BUT WELL... UMM...


WH-WHAT FEELS OFF ABOUT IT...?
...UMM,
...I-IT FEELS KIND OF OFF...

ガラッ
INSTEAD OF VAGUE DIRECTIONS LIKE THOSE,
TELL ME STRAIGHT UP!
I WON'T GET WHAT YOU MEAN IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT!!

I WON'T GET IT WITH VAGUE COMMENTS LIKE THAT!!
WHO GAVE EASY TO UNDERSTAND DIRECTIONS!
MY OLD AGENCY HAD A DIRECTOR
I-I'M SORRY... FOR NOT BEING CLEAR...
AH... AHAHA...
SUZU-CHAN WENT TOO FAR...
Whoa.
I-I'M SORRY...
Dejected...
IT'S YOUR JOB AS A MANAGER TO GIVE DIRECTIONS, RIGHT!?
PLEASE DO YOUR JOB RIGHT!
YOU CAN'T JUST DO THAT.
HUH?

FIRST OF ALL, YOU HAVEN'T READ INTO THE CHARACTER.
DID YOU PROPERLY READ THE ORIGINAL MANGA?
I KNOW THAT PERFORMING SHOUTING AND CRYING SCENES IS DIFFICULT,
BUT HOW MUCH YOU'VE PRACTICED IS SO UNDERWHELMING THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS THEM.
I WON'T CRITICIZE YOU FOR BEING UNPOLISHED,
BUT YOU SHOULD COME HERE ONLY AFTER YOU'VE PRACTICED.
I CAN TELL WHEN SOMEONE PERFORMS BADLY BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T PRACTICED ENOUGH.
ハわぁ…
ISN'T IT A VOICE ACTOR'S JOB TO PRODUCE A VOICE AND PERFORMANCE TO MATCH A CHARACTER?
DO YOUR OWN JOB BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW THE MANAGER DOES HIS.

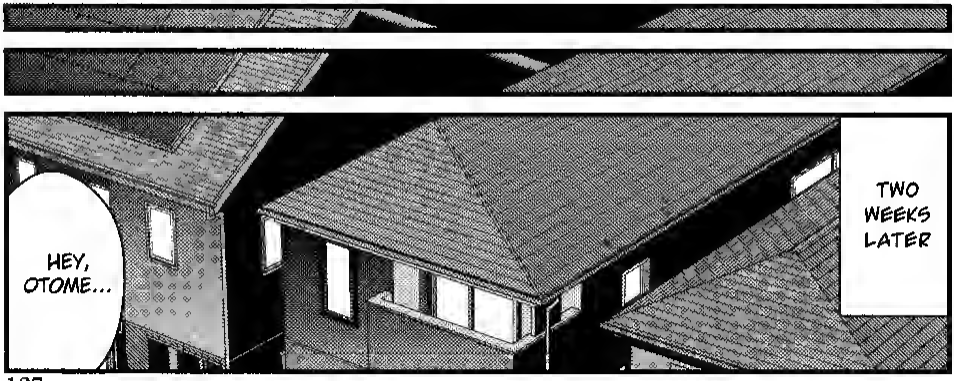
IT'S RUDE FOR YOU TO COMPARE YOUR OLD AGENCY WITH THIS ONE.
…!!
BESIDES, YOUR AGENCY ISN'T BEAM PRODUCE ANYMORE.
IT'S KUSUNOKI PRO.
HOLD ON, ZENI-MOTO-KUN!!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR...!
AYASE-SAN SAID SOMETHING RUDE TO YOU FIRST, SUGAWARA-SAN.
…
EVEN I... KNOW THAT...
Flustered
YOU'LL JUST BE DISRESPECTED IF YOU DON'T SAY SOMETHING WHEN YOU SHOULD.
B-BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN...
What should I do?

I KNOW AT LEAST THAT I'M...
ポロ…
TERRIBLE AT THIS...!!
ポロポロ…
SU-SUZU-CHAN...
...DON'T TALK TO ME RIGHT NOW.
UH...
O-OKAY... I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T GIVE YOU PROPER DIRECTIONS, TOO...
くるっ
...I'M SORRY, SUGA-WARA-SAN.
JUST SUBMIT THAT AS IS.
THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.

SORRY...
I DON'T WANT TO SNAP AT YOU, TOO...

BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE SHOULD JUST THROW THAT ARGUMENT RIGHT AT HER...!!

ZENIMOTO-SAN DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WRONG,
AND SUZU-CHAN WAS TOO HARD ON SUGAWARA-SAN...


TWO WEEKS LATER
HEY, OTOME...

WELL, YOU MIGHT PASS!!
WHY ARE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT IT?
Puff Puff
SUGAWARA-SAN SAID IT'S NOT GONNA BE THAT EASY.
?
そわそわそわ
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF YOU PASS THAT AUDITION!?
FIRST I HAVE TO GET CHOSEN FROM A HUGE AMOUNT OF TAPES FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES,
AND THEN I HAVE TO GET CALLED TO THE STUDIO.
THEN I HAVE TO PASS ANOTHER AUDITION TO GET CHOSEN FOR THE ROLE.
SO IT'S LIKE A TWO PART AUDITION...
PLUS, HE SAID
THAT SOMEONE HIGH UP LIKE THE SOUND DIRECTOR WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO IT!
HE SAID A PRODUCTION ASSISTANT LISTENS TO IT INSTEAD.
IF I'M GONNA DO THIS, I WANT SOMEONE AT THE TOP TO LISTEN TO IT!
REALLY... IS THAT HOW IT IS?

I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THE TAPED AUDITION...AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER, SO MAYBE I SHOULD CALL HER...
BESIDES... IS SUZU-CHAN OKAY...?
SHE LOOKED REALLY DEPRESSED...
AND SO, SINCE IT'S UNLIKELY THAT MY FIRST TAPE WILL CATCH THE ATTENTION OF A PRODUCTION ASSISTANT,
SUGAWARA-SAN TOLD ME NOT TO GET MY HOPES UP.
I SEE...
Sugawara-san
トロリロ
トロリロ
...OH, IT'S SUGA-WARA-SAN...
ビリリリ
WA!!
トロリロ
トロリロ
COULD IT BE SUZU-CHAN!?
Beep
YES? WHAT IS IT, SUGAWARA-SA...

WAS THAT YOUR MANAGER?
REN-TAROU... IT SEEMS THAT...
O-OKAY... SURE...
I UNDERSTAND... YES... GOODBYE...
THEY WANT ME TO GO...
TO A STUDIO AUDITION...
OTOME CAN'T HIDE HER ASTONISHMENT FROM THIS UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT.
TO BE CONTINUED